very step, and carries it as though his neck (!aos) were "wet" (/ã i.e. like a soft, flexible juicy flower stalk). His opposite, a man whose pride expressed itself in a perpetual stretching of his backbone, was called "the hollow one" "!oā/b by the men; by the women: "/ã-sa!ã-b, because his penis (!ãb) was new (/kas) i.e. very potent. 551 522

That the bow-legged person ("//kxõ-aseb), the person with a pot belly ("//ã-etab), the person with red hair ("/a-batana-b), acquire an epithet before an hour has gone by is obvious.

Other teasing names refer to events. A high official who sometimes got off his horse during a trip to pick up a stone or a beetle was called the "junk collector," "na-boreb, from the first day of the journey. Another was named "!u-/ri!a-ogorab, "the white-throated raven," after he was seen in a stiff white collar and a black coat for a reception, although he was usually dressed shabbily.

Finally a soldier who spent a whole day stubbornly wooing for the favor of a Bastard girl who refused him was generally called "/nũ-sore/ga-/b by the Hottentots at his station, "he who sits (/nũ) there even when the sun (so-re) goes down" (/ga-/).

4. Children's Games

I have been able to observe children's games frequently. 857

a) When they are an imitation of the activities of the adults, they reflect the double nature of the Hottentot as a herdsman and a hunter. The boys sometimes catch mice alive (a simple task when they have found a nest), shut them up in little mud kraals as milk cattle and castrate the males except for one which they keep as the bull of the little herd. 524

[30ff] When hunting with little home-made bows with feathered !nagromis stalks as arrows or with stones as their only weapons, they call the lizards their springbok, the elephant shrew are elephants, (see p. 287, no. 40) a rat-like rodent the lion and the striped mouse the zebra. The wild animals are properly skinned and cut up. Whoever has killed a bird, plucks it and makes a good trade as is done with ostrich feathers. 857 526

The Boers' ox wagon is also so popular in Namaland that the children have taken it over into their games. Large wingless grasshoppers are acceptable draught animals. They yoke the strong insects that are half the length of a finger to a little hand-made ox wagon. They attach the yoke to the rope that draws the wagon and span the animals properly, first the left rear ox with the yoke strap on the outside, then the one on the right 857 524

with the strap next to the drawing rope etc. They seem less interested in 857
the wonderful sight of 24 grasshoppers yoked together than they are in 529
imitating as well as they can the customs of the adults.

In their games, in spite of all the childish activity in any particular 857
one, there is often much that has an educational value. The boys do not 561
always band together just for brief games and then scatter; they often organize themselves together for a year or longer. They elect a chief, a captain, who chooses his lieutenant; as all older boys do, these two choose younger ones as personal servants. Punishment for disobedience, a tribute of tobacco or food, is not merely playful; it is often quite serious for a boy who has to earn his own keep. The captain has to abstain from using physical force. He delegates one of his group to carry out any punishment that he considers necessary. The adults allow their boys to be judged by their contemporaries and thereby strengthen the system of the self-education of youth.

Because of the early sexual maturity of this race, it is not surprising 836
that the boys often have sexual intercourse before they have outgrown 857
childish games. In one case the boy had to pay the chief a tribute. In another case the captain even decided arguments in love affairs. He took a girl away from one boy and gave her to another and thus overstepped the bounds of childish play.

When there are no clashes with other groups to satisfy their belligerent 857
feelings, war games are sometimes arranged. If, for example, [310] one 526
of the cattle guards has found a thorn bush with wasp nests, then the group arms itself with sling shots which they make out of a piece of skin and two straps. They take their stand about 20 paces from the tree. It is now the duty of the lieutenant to climb up the tree and to break a piece of the nest loose and bring it to the captain. It is no easy test of courage for the boy, clothed only in a leather apron, to approach the angry swarm. Once he has completed this task, the band begins the bombardment of the nests. In the case that I remember the boys did not succeed in destroying the nests. As a punishment on that evening they were not allowed to drink milk from their goats which their parents or masters had turned over to them for their needs.

Outwardly, the //abi game imitates the military customs of the adults only symbolically. In the imagination, however, they are clearly visible. A thorn from the giraffe acacia or the thorn tree is placed on a thin stick that is slightly longer than a finger. This arrowlike toy is chased between the fingers as the illustration shows and flipped forward and down by withdrawing the thumb, sending it into a pile of reeds as long as a finger. These are in the open or covered with sand so that they will not scatter when the thorn

lands among them. The speared reeds are supposed to be cows and are therefore called gu/mati. The children themselves feel like victorious soldiers who are dividing their booty by games of chance. [Picture. Position of the hand in the game of raffling booty.] 857 526

The imitative games of the Hottentot children are particularly worthy of notice as they represent the only stage in their life in which an artistic drive seeks definite outlet. The half-grown boys between the ages of about eight and sixteen make toys from clay, and bake the clay in a fire to give it nuances of color as well as hardness. 857 529 323 532

The figure of a white man is in the middle of the first group, standing behind a horse. [See Figure I.]* The narrow [311] high bridge of the nose of our race astonishes the Hottentot with his wide low nose and provokes him to caricature. On the right next to this figure is a smoking, native woman with [steatopygia]. Behind her, with the pigs, is a boy by an iron three-legged Boer cooking pot. The wooden nose piece is interesting in the riding ox. [Pictures I., II. The fat-tailed wether is bucking a billy goat. The kneeling guard aiming his rifle with one closed eye shows careful observation.] [312] Figure II shows a pair of ostriches on the left, the male emphasized by its natural ornament of feathers and by its size. The artist, at any rate, did not see the giraffe in Namaland, but probably in some zoo in the Cape colony. The oryx antelope and the springbok are recognizable by their pointed horns and lyre shaped horns respectively. Of the two scorpions with their threatening stingers raised up, the one on the right is better made. The young herdboy has plenty of opportunity of observing baboons. The events reproduced here he has obviously observed carefully. The other figures represent a frog, an iguana and a turtle.

The last group of clay figures (Fig. III) represents an ox wagon, which the old Boer with his long whip directs from the front box, while the native guide seeks the way. [Picture. Figure III]. I would like to point out especially the naturalistic reproduction of the lead oxen that are pushing powerfully against the yoke.

In these sculptural attempts one can recognize everywhere the ability to reproduce the characteristic element of the object from direct observation, without contemplation. It is the same primitiveness that differentiates the drawings of prehistoric man from those of our children, who reproduce objects more intellectually (with whom they are now being closely compared).

It is strange that the Hottentot's undoubted ability to reproduce things in sculpture is extinguished when the age of childish games is passed.

*[Figures refer to p. 128. — Analyst]

[315] Betting games are played by boys with throwing sticks in two ways. A stick as long as an arm, called //a-rab, best cut from the wood of a Rhus species or a Grewia, is seized by the thick end (about one centimeter in diameter) and thrown down flat on the ground with such violence that it bounces up and shoots forward like an arrow. 526 [525]

The game with the somewhat shorter */kgaub stick is related. They are seized near the pointed end and, after a running start as in the previous game, thrown towards a bush in such a way that the twigs (the smooth Cyperus bushes are especially adapted for this) stop it in its flight. The stick flies in a wide or narrow arc with the heavy end towards the front over distances greater than I could span with a stone.

The children practice their finger skills with little juggling games. For example, they hold three pebbles in each hand while squatting on the ground and throw two symmetrically in front of them, dropping both hands at the same time, -- as everyone believes, one from each hand. Then they open their hands and laughing show you three pebbles in one hand and one in the other. It requires no little skill to throw two pebbles from a hand which just a second ago was tightly closed in such a way that one falls down below the hand and the other falls sideways in front of the other hand. [Picture. /kgaub- and //a-rab throwing sticks.] 524

They compete in skills in another way by making twisting paths in the sand and trying to run the paths as quickly as possible without making a misstep. During the game they call on a buzzard-like bird with the words: "hisarus, //gams daoe, hisabes, //gams daoe," i.e. "Hisarus, the waterway, Hisabes etc." (Why they call on this particular bird, whether it shows the way to water as the flight of the doves does, is not clear.) 526

The hole game, called //hub, is widespread in South Africa and played with equal pleasure by Hottentot children and adults. I watched the natives play it with special interest since it demands thinking and is played with passion. Without reference [314] to the way this common game is played in other parts of South Africa, I will reveal here briefly the observations I have made among the Hottentots about this game. 527

a) The game is played by two sides (I and II) that sit opposite each other, with any number of players. The team mates can all discuss each move but one person carries it out. [Picture of the plan of the game.] ½

β) The playing field consists of four rows of holes, each row having sixteen to twenty-two holes, dug out of the sand by hand, called //hub.ba which are divided evenly between the two sides. In the first row (a) of each side each hole is filled with two tokens, in the second row (b) only the right half of each team's row. Small stones, often goat manure, are used as tokens.

½ [for picture, see Georgi text, col 18, p. 319. - Pamela]

1: Schultze--113A N-8 (1903-1905) 1907 FX13 Hottentot FX13
Nama

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Ixaqu/b- and //a-rab,
throwing sticks.

[p. 213]